

Remarks/Arguments

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 31 are canceled, and claims 5-22, 27, 32, and 37-38 are amended to correct dependency errors, typographical errors, and to conform with the amendments made to claim 22 (which now includes the subject matter of allowed claim 31). Therefore, no new matter is added. Claims 5-30 and 32-38 are pending.

The revised set of claims complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. For instance, the amendments place the claims into a (1) condition for allowance (see below) and (2) better form for consideration on appeal, if necessary (*i.e.*, amendments dispose of all issues for Appeal).

B. Interview Summary With the Examiner

Applicant's representative, Michael Krawzsenek, and Examiner Stultz, conducted a telephone interview on October 30, 2007. During the interview, Mr. Krawzsenek informed Examiner Stultz of Applicant's desire to pursue the subject matter of allowed claim 31 at this time. It was indicated that these amendments would be made of record without requiring Applicant to file a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant has revised the claims accordingly (see above).

Applicant also discovered *via* PAIR that an Examiner Interview Summary was mailed to Applicant on November 6, 2007. Applicant disagrees with this Summary. The correctness of Applicant's summary is confirmed by the fact that dependent claim 31 is indicated as being allowed at pages 12-13 of the Final Office Action.

C. All of the Rejections Are Moot

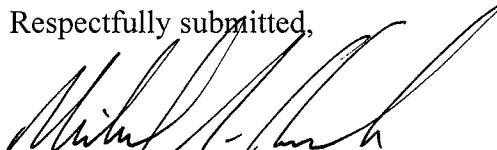
Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0071091 (“Degand”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,865,668 (“Goepfert”). Claims 22-30 and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Degand in view of Goepfert and further in view of JP H3-294802 (“Hayashi”).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. However, in an effort to further the prosecution and secure prompt allowance, the claims are currently directed to the allowed subject matter. Therefore, these rejections are rendered moot, and Applicant requests that they be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to pursue additional subject matter in continuing applications.

D. Conclusion

The present claims are in a condition for allowance and such favorable action is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (512) 536-3020 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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